In the Claims

1. **(currently amended)** A process for improving the rheological properties of aqueous pigment compositions which process comprises ultrasonic treatment at a frequency of 16 to 100 kHz of aqueous pigment dispersions or suspensions containing 30% to 60% solids by weight of the dispersion for a period of time from about 5 seconds up to 5 minutes.

2. **(currently amended)** The process according to claim 1 wherein the pigment compositions contain 35 to 65% by weight organic or inorganic pigments, or mixtures thereof.

3. **(previously presented)** The process according to claim 2 wherein the organic pigments are monoazo, disazo, azomethin, naphthol (β-naphtol) or metal-complex pigments.

4. **(previously presented)** The process according to claim 2 wherein the inorganic pigments are titanium oxide pigments, iron oxide and hydroxide pigments, chromium oxide pigments, spinel type calcined pigments, lead chromate pigments, bismuth vanadate pigments, carbon black or Prussian Blue.

5. **(cancelled)**

6. **(previously presented)** The process according to claim 1 wherein the aqueous pigment compositions contain further additives.

7. **(currently amended)** The process according to claim 1 wherein the ultrasonic treatment is carried out in a flow-through-, single pass- or re-circulation-system. ~~for a period of time from about 5 seconds up to 5 minutes.~~

8. **(previously presented)** The process according to claim 1 wherein the frequency of ultrasound is from 16 to 40 kHz.

9. **(cancelled).**

10-11. **(cancelled)**

12. **(previously presented)** The process according to claim 3 wherein the metal-complex pigments are phthalocyanines or azomethin metal-complex pigments.

13. **(previously presented)** The process according to claim 6 wherein the additives are polymers, dispersants, antifoams or biocides.

14. **(currently amended)** The process according to claim **[[7]]** 1 wherein the period of time is from about 5 seconds to about 2 minutes.

15. **(previously presented)** The process according to claim 1 wherein the frequency of ultrasound is from 16 to 20 kHz.

16. **(cancelled)**

17. **(new)** The process according to claim 1 wherein the period of time is from about 5 seconds to about 2 minutes.

18. **(new)** The process according to claim 1 wherein the period of time is from 5 seconds to 20 seconds.

19. **(new)** The process according to claim 2 wherein the period of time is from about 5 seconds to about 2 minutes.

20. **(new)** The process according to claim 8 wherein the period of time is from about 5 seconds to about 2 minutes.

21. **(new)** The process according to claim 15 wherein the period of time is from about 5 seconds to about 2 minutes.